

## Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



**Cumberland County  
High School**  
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## Jets Reduce Waste and Serve the Community

### The Member

Cumberland County High School's environmental program has been active since 1987 with support of students, teachers, and principal. With a total student population of 2000, there is plenty of waste generated from normal everyday school activities. Annell Fields' Ecology classes (100 students each semester) and 50-member Environmental Club spearhead the green initiatives, raising environmental awareness in the school and community.

### The Story

In an effort to "Think globally, and act locally," the Environmental Club began recycling aluminum cans in 1987, using the funds to purchase blue bins for recycling mixed paper schoolwide. The Cumberland County Recycling Center provided four large dumpsters with lids and locks, which are emptied of paper twice a semester. An annual collection of old books and textbooks are recycled at the beginning of each school year.

A new program reuses gallon cans from the cafeteria to collect household batteries in each classroom, which are turned in at the Household Hazardous Waste collection. The HHW event is advertised on the digital sign in front of the school, and Club members volunteer to direct traffic and assist with filling out surveys. There is also a new campaign to collect and turn in printer cartridges through the local Staples store.

Charity initiatives promoted re-use of eyeglasses that were sent to Cameroon, South Africa, and winter coats that were collected for the county "Coats for the Cold" campaign during the 2004-05 school year.

Community service includes litter pick-up biannually through the TDOT Adopt-a-Highway program on Lantana Road, at Daddy's Creek canoe dock, on Lake Tansi's shoreline, and with the Great American Clean-up on the Obed Wild and Scenic River. The litter message has spread to other school clubs who have adopted spots on campus for cleanup. Ecology Class backpacking and rappelling field trips include packing out litter from scenic wilderness areas.

### The Success

Participation in the schoolwide recycling programs for four years while students are at CCHS has instilled a waste reduction ethic in future citizens of Crossville. The large enrollment of students that take Ecology and belong to the Environmental Club has spread environmental stewardship throughout the school and instilled a sense of community service.

### The Pollution Prevented

County Solid Waste Director, Wayne Blaylock, estimates about 12.8 tons/year of newspapers, office paper, and magazines are diverted from the county landfill. About one ton/year of old books and textbooks have been recycled since 1999. About 1500 batteries were taken to the HHW collection in 2004. 24 pounds of printer cartridges were taken to Staples for remanufacturing in May 2005. 194 pairs of used eyeglasses were sent to Cameroon, South Africa, and 90 used coats were donated to charity. Untold amounts of litter were removed from roadsides, waterways, and scenic areas of Tennessee.

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